

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 04638 221349Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4638

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, VT
SUBJECT: CSCE: CONSULTATIONS WITH VATICAN

REF: A. STATE 038923; B. ROME 2365

1. IN ACCORD WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A, WE MADE
CSCE PRESENTATION TO VATICAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVESTRINI AND CSCE EXPERT SAINZ.

2. VATICAN OFFICIALS APPRECIATED HAVING USG VIEWS
AND MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING VATICAN POSTURE
AT BELGRADE.

A. PREPARATORY MEETING. VATICAN DELEGATION TO MEETING
WOULD CONSIST OF TWO OFFICIALS. VATICAN AGREES WITH US
ON NATURE OF PREPARATORY MEETING.

B. MAIN MEETING. VATICAN DELEGATION WILL FOLLOW
GENERAL CONSENSUS ON LEVEL. VATICAN AGREES THAT PRIMARY
FOCUS SHOULD BE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONS
CONTAINED IN FINAL ACT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 04638 221349Z

C. FOLLOW-UP BEYOND BELGRADE. VATICAN BELIEVES
THAT SINCE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IS NOT A TREATY PER SE
BUT A DECLARATION; SOME FORMAL METHOD FOR FOLLOW-UP
IS ESSENTIAL. WHILE PREMATURE TO MAKE JUDGMENT
ON PRECISE METHOD, VATICAN DOES NOT RULE OUT SUPPORT
FOR A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS. VATICAN BELIEVES THAT THE EAST IS SENSITIVE TO WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION AND THEREFORE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WESTERN EMPHASIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE GEARED TO INFORMING WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION OF THE NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN THE FINAL ACT. HOWEVER, DIRECT GOVERNMENT PRESSURES ON EAST FOR IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL TO THE DEGREE THAT THEY ARE LINKED TO THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF THE FINAL ACT.

4. WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL. VATICAN DOES NOT WISH TAKE A POSITION.

5. BREZHNEV PROPOSALS. VATICAN WILL WAIT AND FOLLOW GENERAL CONSENSUS EUROPEAN STATES.

6. FAMILY REUNIFICATION. VATICAN IS VERY INTERESTED IN ADDITIONAL PROGRESS AND NOTED THAT HOLY SEE AT RECENT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON ASYLUM HAD ASSERTED THAT RIGHT OF ASYLUM IMPLICITLY INCLUDED ALSO COMMITMENT OF HELPING FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

7. COMMENT: VATICAN HAS PREFERRED NON-POLEMICAL APPROACH ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, QUIETLY PRESSING EAST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO SHOW EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF HELSINKI ACT. THE VATICAN CONSIDERS THAT SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (E.G. HUNGARY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA) HAVE ALREADY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 04638 221349Z

GIVEN CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY, AND IS HOPEFUL THAT USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO BELGRADE. AS STATED IN REFTEL B, VATICAN DESISTS FROM PUBLIC PRESSURES BECAUSE IT FEARS RETALIATION ON THE FAITHFUL IN THESE COUNTRIES. GARDNER

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